

JL,

CIA-Domestic Intelligence/NYTimes 12/22/74 story HW 12/23/74

After you left there was nothing but interruptions except when I cleaned out the fireplace to start a fire. Even supper was interrupted. So, it was not until after 8 that I finished Hersh's story.

I had formed the tentative opinion that this story was planted with care, based on the radio and today's a.m. TV news accounts of it. That was an inadequate analysis. This leak was very carefully orchestrated before it was leaked. When it was given to Hersh he has to have been given a list of those in a position to know who would talk but not for attribution. His yield record is too good, even for extensive work.

Because there is, despite anonymity, great risk, this also has to mean that some people were satisfied there would be major support and much less risk of retribution. One of the reasons specifics are scant is because they can be more easily traced to a source. As an example, I am certain from what Angleton is quoted as saying in this story that he was a source for Barron in the book KGB. Angleton told Hersh enough to make the connection. By "specifics" I really mean illustrations. The story seems to be generalities but it is specific enough.

So, I presumed major forces wanted this out and now. However, tonight's account of the newest White House ~~xxxxx~~ statements represents a considerable drawing back. To put the overly-busy Kissinger is changes is to have a self-investigation. To say what I think came out as the FBI "has no role at all" is to presume no possibility of any law violation or to cover up, which is more than this but includes it. The FBI is supposed to investigate not certain violations of federal law but possible ones.

This is to say that at least tentatively Ford has sided with CIA.

There is so little of the FBI in this story I wonder if on a high level it was involved. Former FBI people are quoted.

I don't buy the story that the FBI was unaware of all this. I am certain that it had a pretty good idea of what the CIA was doing, especially in its private turf. Hoover was particularly jealous of that.

Dan Schorr reported that Baker knew of two CIA domestic files. One was Bud.

(WHEN will we file that damned motion? He ought to hang from his toe-nails for a while on the off chance it will put his balls where they belong and a little in his head.)

One thing I never told you I want to record. There was a Cental Park rally Trent Gough had the Sunday after Bobby was killed. I was a speaker. There was large coverage but little reporting. NBC was represented by at least a tape recorder and a man who was in front recording every word on a large reel-to-reel machine, not a cassette machine. I never heard of them using a word. And I can't imagine why NBC wanted all those words. This was also true of movie sweeps of the audience, repeated ones, with photographers walking back and forth along the edges shooting in.

I think there is much of value for the project we have discussed for so long, a suit, in this piece. As I read it I marked it up but with all the mail there was today and the answers not even begun, I can't take the time to put them together on paper. What the marks meant, that is.

I suppose the papers will carry the Symington (Mr. Indignation) interview that was on TV. He has been on the oversight subcommittee for only 15 years. He said it is time to "find out what is this agency doing." After 45 years, not a bit too soon!

I asked Art Kevin to save the wire copy he can get. There will be stories not in the WxPost and NYTimes. In fact, it seems that someone wanted to bypass the Post or the Post passed it up. Yesterday's was an exceptionally small paper with a disproportionately high percentage of wire-service stories. Or, men off.

The copy did not turn out good. It is legible but not suitable for recopying. So, don't throw any other copies away if you see any. But also don't make one for me when I return your clipping unless I ask for it, please.

If the leakers are determined, there should be a strong reaction to today's Fordisms. One early story, from the plane, had him saying that Colby had phoned an account to him on the plane. Now the story is that Colby spoke to him during the week. Even that is not when Colby first knew the Times would have a story.